



**News: For Immediate Release**  
Additional Information Contact:  
Vincent DeMarco  
Office: 410-591-9162  
Gene M. Ransom, MedChi CEO  
Office: 410-539-0872 x 3305

## **HEALTH CARE GROUPS TO ANNOUNCE PRIMARY ELECTION WINNERS WHO ENDORSE HEALTHY MARYLAND INITIATIVE TOBACCO TAX FOR HEALTH CARE PROPOSAL**

BALTIMORE, July 21, 2014 — On Wednesday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2:00 p.m. at the office of MedChi, the Maryland State Medical Society, 1211 Cathedral Street in Baltimore City, Maryland health care leaders will announce that 111 General Assembly candidates who have won their primary elections have endorsed the Healthy Maryland Initiative proposal to increase the state tobacco tax by one dollar per pack to reduce teen smoking and fund critical health care and public health programs. The attached list of endorsing candidates includes five standing committee chairs and likely represents a majority of the Members of both the State Senate and House of Delegates which will convene in January of 2015.

In addition to key legislative leaders on the tobacco tax issue, attendees at the event will include representatives of the Maryland Health Care For All! Coalition as well as MedChi doctors from across the state.

“The Maryland Health Care For All! Coalition is very pleased that 111 General Assembly Candidates who won their primaries have already endorsed our life saving proposal to increase the state tobacco tax by one dollar per pack” said Vincent DeMarco, President of the Maryland Citizens’ Health Initiative. “We believe this means that in 2015 there will be a majorities in both the State Senate and the House of Delegates to pass this measure.”

“It is a top priority for MedChi to enact the Healthy Maryland Initiative dollar per pack tobacco tax proposal,” said Gene Ransom, CEO of MedChi. “We commend the candidates who have so far endorsed this life-saving measure and we look forward to working with them to enact it in 2015.”

### About MedChi

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is a non-profit membership association of Maryland physicians. Formed in 1799, it is still the largest physician organization in Maryland today. The mission of MedChi is to serve as Maryland's foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients and the public health of Maryland. For more information, please visit [www.medchi.org](http://www.medchi.org).

### About Health Care for All!

The Health Care for All! Coalition is a broad-based coalition of over 1200 faith, labor, business and community groups that have been working to guarantee all Marylanders access to quality, affordable health care. To learn more, visit <http://www.healthcareforall.com>.